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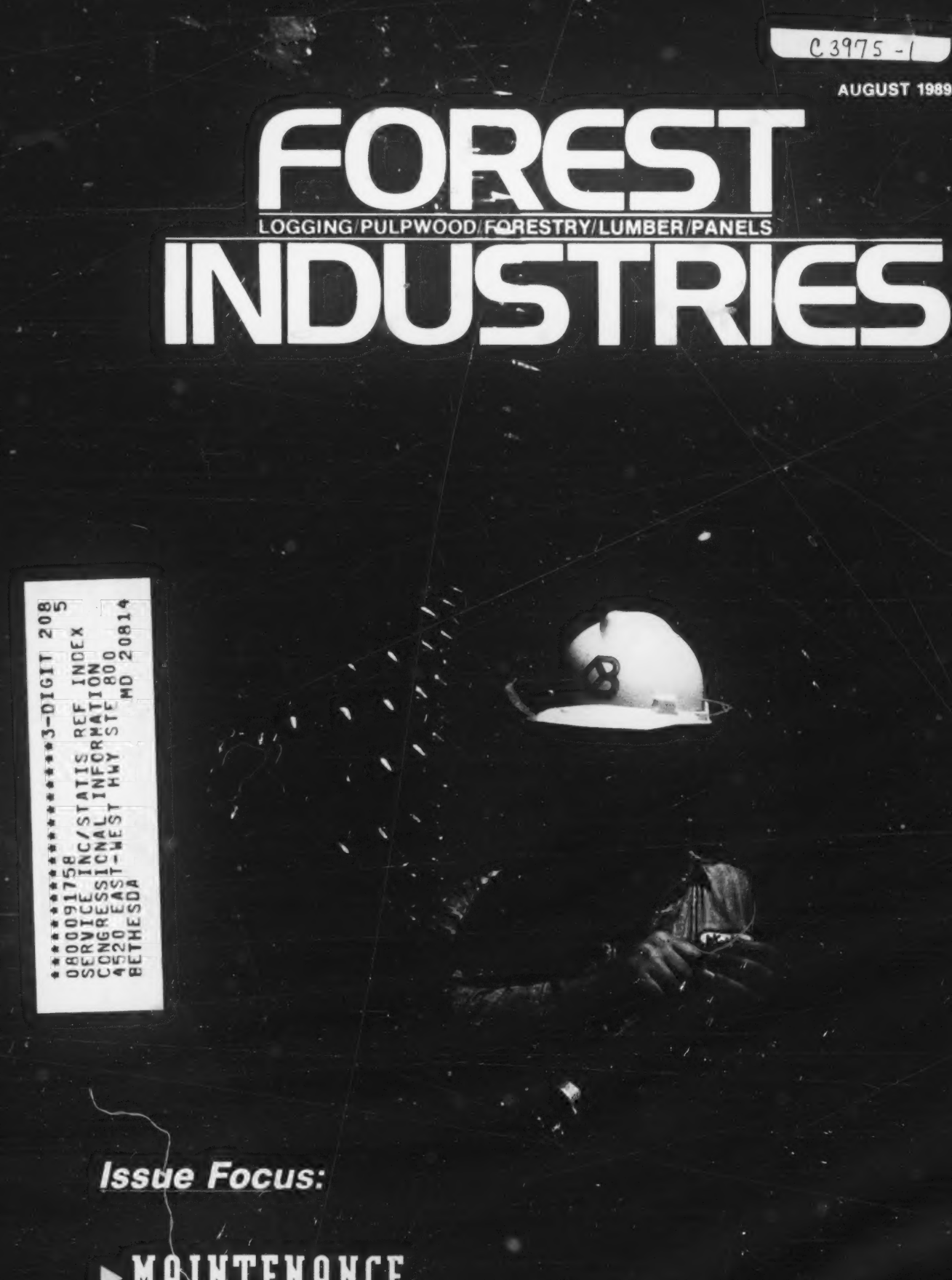
AUGUST 1989

FOREST INDUSTRIES

LOGGING/PULPWOOD/FORESTRY/LUMBER/PANELS



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COVER: Lubrication is essential part of PM program at Diamond-B Lumber Co., Philomath, Ore. Photograph courtesy of Dubal, Beck, Harris & Associates, Portland, Ore. Story begins on page 22

INDUSTRY LEADERS

Top 20 producers: no surprises in '88

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.—Fully one-third of all the lumber manufactured in North America comes from the top 20 producers, each of which produces more in a single day than many companies produce in a year.

The annual FOREST INDUSTRIES lumber survey turned up no surprises in the top 20 this year. Nine are Canadian, with a combined output of 8.622 billion bd ft, or 34% of the Canadian total; and 11 are U.S.-based, with a combined output of 14.168, or 29% of the U.S. total.

(It should be noted that Table 1 technically shows only the top 19 producers. MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. and Sierra Pacific Industries are tied for ninth place; each reported an '88 production of 925 million bd ft. Mac-Blo got the nod by virtue of its place in the alphabet.)

As shown in Table 2, total U.S. and Canadian lumber production fell in 1988, down 2% from '87's record high. A further decline is forecast for 1989, due in part to serious timber supply restrictions in the West (see p. 7).

The latest edition of the FOREST INDUSTRIES' *North American Factbook*, due off press in late September, includes a list of 800 top lumber producers in the U.S. and Canada. The list gives mill-by-mill production figures for each company, plus a breakdown of hardwood and softwood output.

The *Factbook* contains similar data about panel producers, plus news about mergers/acquisitions, capital spending, imports and exports, and more. For details, see p. 36. ■

TABLE 1—Top 20 lumber producers, U.S. and Canada

Company name & headquarters	# of mills	1988 production (million bd ft)	Rank in 1987
1. Weyerhaeuser Co. Tacoma, Wash.	36	2,942	1
2. Louisiana-Pacific Corp. Portland, Ore.	59	2,438	2
3. Georgia-Pacific Corp. Atlanta, Ga.	46	2,323	3
4. Fletcher Challenge Canada Ltd. Vancouver, B.C.	17	1,735	NA
5. Weldwood of Canada Ltd. Vancouver, B.C.	8	1,107	13
6. West Fraser Mills Ltd. Vancouver, B.C.	6	1,085	6
7. Canfor Corp. Vancouver, B.C.	8	1,040	5
8. WTD Industries Inc. Portland, Ore.	21	1,039	10
9. MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. Vancouver, B.C.	9	925	8
10. Sierra Pacific Industries Redding, Calif.	9	925	12
11. International Paper Co. Dallas, Texas	12	894	7
12. Boise Cascade Corp. Boise, Idaho	15	776	9
13. RSG Forest Products Inc. Kalama, Wash.	6	757	15
14. Roseburg Forest Products Co. Roseburg, Ore.	5	749	18
15. Northwood Pulp & Timber Ltd. Prince George, B.C.	5	724	14
16. Champion International Corp. Stamford, Conn.	11	710	11
17. Int'l. Forest Products Co. Vancouver, B.C.	7	700	17
18. Slocan Forest Products Ltd. Richmond, B.C.	6	660	22
19. Westar Timber Ltd. Vancouver, B.C.	5	646	16
20. Pope & Talbot Inc. Portland, Ore.	6	615	19

NOTE: Companies are ranked according to data gathered by FOREST INDUSTRIES.

TABLE 2—U.S. & Canadian lumber production, 1979-1988 (billion bd ft)

Year	U.S. Softwood	U.S. Hardwood	Total U.S.	B.C. Coast & Interior	Canada East of Rockies	Total Canada	Total U.S. & Canada
1979	31.432	9.069	40.501	12.518	6.480	18.998	59.499
1980	26.246	8.860	35.106	11.980	6.923	18.903	54.009
1981	24.676	7.147	31.823	10.424	6.473	16.897	48.720
1982	23.787	7.668	31.455	10.109	5.887	15.996	47.451
1983	29.726	8.556	38.282	13.043	7.486	20.529	58.811
1984	31.174	9.865	41.039	13.078	7.901	20.979	62.018
1985	31.321	8.866	40.187	14.003	8.952	22.955	63.142
1986	35.273	10.024	45.297	13.335	10.097	23.432	68.729
1987	38.235	11.160	49.395	15.888	10.385	26.273	75.668
1988	36.904	11.446	48.350	15.574	10.111	25.685	74.035

SOURCES: NFPA & Statistics Canada.

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Combining *The Timberman* and *The Lumberman*

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